

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-66. (Cancelled)

67. (Currently Amended) A method of employing a resource server to providing a provide resources to a client, the method comprising:

associating each resource with a respective age threshold on the basis of a level of security desired for the resource, in which the age threshold represents the oldest allowable age of a membership certificate that can be associated with a request for the resource, such that the resource can be provided in reply to the request only if the membership certificate has an age that is not older than the oldest allowable age,

receiving a request from a the client for at least one of the resources, the request ~~including being associated with~~ a membership certificate that was issued by a server other than the resource server and that certifying certifies at least one of group membership and group non-membership of the client as of a time ~~associated with the membership certificate,~~

~~determining whether a signature associated with the membership certificate is valid,~~
determining an age of the membership certificate relative to that time,

for each of the at least one resource that is requested by the client:

comparing the ~~time~~ age of the membership certificate with a the recency age threshold associated with the resource, and

providing the resource to the client only if ~~the signature is valid and the time age~~ is ~~within~~ not older than the recency age threshold.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein the membership certificate certifies group membership, and providing the resource to the client further includes:

providing the resource to the client only if the group is associated with an access control-list.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein the membership certificate certifies group non-membership, and providing the resource to the client further includes:
providing the resource to the client only if the group is associated with a non-access control-list.

70. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a resources to a client, the system comprising:
~~one or more resources associated with one or more respective recency thresholds,~~
a resource server that is in communication with the client, that controls access to the one
~~or more resources, and that is the server~~ configured to:

associate each resource with a respective age threshold on the basis of a level of security desired for the resource, in which the age threshold represents the oldest allowable age of a membership certificate that can be associated with a request for the resource, such that the resource can be provided in reply to the request only if the membership certificate has an age that is not older than the oldest allowable age,

receive a request from the client for at least one of the one or more resources, the request ~~including~~ being associated with a membership certificate that was issued by a server other than the resource server and that certifying certifies at least one of group membership and group non-membership of the client as of a time ~~associated with the membership certificate,~~

~~determine whether a signature associated with the membership certificate is valid,~~
determine an age of the membership certificate relative to that time,
for each of the at least one resource that is requested by the client:

compare the ~~time~~ age of the membership certificate with the ~~recency~~ age threshold associated with the ~~one of the one or more~~ resources, and

provide the resource to the client only if ~~the signature is valid and the time~~ age is within the ~~recency~~ age threshold.

71. (Cancelled)

72. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 70, wherein the membership certificate certifies group membership, and the server is configured to:

provide the resource to the client only if the group is associated with an access control-list.

73. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 70, wherein the membership certificate certifies group non-membership, and the server is configured to:

provide the resource to the client only if the group is associated with a non-access control-list.

74. (Currently Amended) A processor-readable medium including instructions to cause a processor of a resource server to:

associate each of two or more resources with a respective age threshold on the basis of a level of security desired for the resource, in which the age threshold represents the oldest allowable age of a membership certificate that can be associated with a request for the resource, such that the resource can be provided in reply to the request only if the membership certificate has an age that is not older than the oldest allowable age,

receive a request from a client for at least one of the two or more resources, the request ~~including being associated with~~ a membership certificate that was issued by a server other than the resource server and that certifying certifies at least one of group membership and group non-membership of the client as of a time ~~associated with the membership certificate,~~

~~determine whether a signature associated with the membership certificate is valid,~~

determine an age of the membership certificate relative to that time,

for each of the at least one resource that is requested by the client:

compare the ~~time~~ age of the membership certificate with the ~~recency~~ age threshold associated with the resource, and

provide the resource to the client only if ~~the signature is valid and the time~~ age is within the ~~recency~~ age threshold.

75. (New) The processor program of claim 74, wherein the membership certificate certifies group membership, and the instructions to provide the resource to the client further include instructions to:

provide the resource to the client only if the group is associated with an access control-list.

76. (New) The processor program of claim 74, wherein the membership certificate certifies group non-membership, and the instructions to provide the resource to the client further include instructions to:

provide the resource to the client only if the group is associated with a non-access control-list.

77. (New) A processor data-signal ~~for providing a resource to a client, the processor data-signal~~ being embodied in a carrier wave and representing instructions to cause a processor of a resource server to:

associate each of two or more resources with a respective age threshold on the basis of a level of security desired for the resource, in which the age threshold represents the oldest allowable age of a membership certificate that can be associated with a request for the resource, such that the resource can be provided in reply to the request only if the membership certificate has an age that is not older than the oldest allowable age,

receive a request from a client for at least one of the two or more resources, the request ~~including being associated with~~ a membership certificate that was issued by a server other than the resource server and that certifying certifies at least one of group membership and group non-membership of the client as of a time ~~associated with the membership certificate,~~

~~determine whether a signature associated with the membership certificate is valid,~~

determine an age of the membership certificate relative to that time,

for each of the at least one resource that is requested by the client:

compare the ~~time~~ age of the membership certificate with the ~~recency~~ age threshold associated with the resource, and

provide the resource to the client only if ~~the signature is valid and the time~~ age is within the ~~recency~~ age threshold.

78. (New) The processor data-signal of claim 77, wherein the membership certificate certifies group membership, and the instructions to provide the resource to the client further include instructions to:

provide the resource to the client only if the group is associated with an access control-list.

79. (New) The processor data-signal of claim 77, wherein the membership certificate certifies group non-membership, and the instructions to provide the resource to the client further include instructions to:

provide the resource to the client only if the group is associated with a non-access control-list.